

The Narrative of Barbarah wife of  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Smith of Puttuxent River in  
Calvert County in the Province of  
Maryland.

P. R. O.  
Colonial  
Papers.

30<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>er</sup> 1689.

Upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of March last a rumour was spread abroad about the mouth of Puttuxent River that Ten Thousand Indians were come down to the Western Branch of the said River. whereupon my husband went up to the said Western Branch where he found noe Indians but there a strong Report that nine Thousand were at Matapany and at the mouth of Puttuxent and that they had cutt off Cap<sup>t</sup> Bournes Family and had inforted themselves at Matapany, which was all false, upon these rumours the Country rose in Armes, but after dilligent search and enquiry in all parts of the Province this rumour was found to be only a sham and noe Indians anywhere appeared to disturb or molest any the People of our Province. All which reports I do verily believe were designedly spread abroad to incite the People to rise in Armes as afterwards by the like Sham they were induced to doe. For in the latter end of July following one Cap<sup>t</sup> Code, Coll. Jowles, Maj<sup>r</sup> Beal M<sup>r</sup> Blackiston with some others appeared in Armes and gave for their pretence that the Papists had invited the Northern Indians to come down and cutt off the Protestants and that their descent was to be about the latter end of August when roasting Eares were in season and that they therefore rose in Armes to secure the Magazine of armes and amunition and the Protestants from being cutt off by the said Indians and Papists, this was their pretence to those they found very apprehensive of the said Indians to others they said their design was only to proclaim the King and Queen, but when the afores<sup>d</sup> persons with some others had gathered together a great number of People together they then came out and seized upon the Government, who withstood them first at S<sup>t</sup> Maryes in the State House where the Records are kept, whom the said Code and his party soon overcame and seized upon the Records, from thence he proceeded with his party to Matapany House, wherein Coll. Darnall with some Forces as many Protestants as Papists had garrisoned themselves, but were soon forced to capitulate, surrender and yeild, to the said Code and his party. They having thus possessed themselves of the Government one Johnson Master of a Ship being bound for England, they gave him charge he should carry noe Letters but what was sent for themselves, and my Husband they arrested and put in prison for fear he should goe for England with the said Johnson to give an accompt of their proceedings